MISCELLANEOUS.

Note on the Bird of Paradise (Paradisea apoda).
By M. de Lafresnaye.

We understand from an old merchant at Rouen, a great amateur in Natural History, that one of his friends, a captain, had informed him, that being lately at Batavia and compelled to remain there for some time, he had made the acquaintance of a rich colonist who had a taste for keeping live birds, and possessed some which are very rare and valuable. Amongst others he noticed several pairs of the Bird of Paradise, and it was not without astonishment that he several times saw the males of this bird display themselves before the female, expanding the long plumes of their flanks. By means of a sort of vibration of their entire plumage, they raised all their feathers, including these long plumes, and surrounded themselves completely, so as to form a sort of halo, in the centre of which the bright green head formed a disc, which at the moment looked like a little emerald sun, with its rays formed by the feathers of the two plumes. He had no doubt that this action, which was frequently repeated, was intended to please the females, as is remarked in all birds the males of which are furnished with ornaments.—*Revue et Mag. de Zool.* 1853, p. 339.

New Observations on the Development of the Intestinal Worms.
By Prof. Van Beneden.

In the intestines of *Rana temporaria* I have found in abundance specimens of *Tænia dispar*, which is usually observed only in the Tritons. In the adult Proglottis the eggs are distributed in threes in capsules placed in two longitudinal rows. The embryos can move in their shells, and their motions may be seen through the integuments of the mother; the hooks especially are constantly in motion. I succeeded in hatching these ova artificially, as I had done five years before, with the *Linguatulæ*, by crushing them between two plates of glass. Amongst a great number of ova and embryos which were completely destroyed, a few still retained life and motion, and I made the following observations upon them.

All their movements were the same; they were consequently the effect of a normal condition. The six hooks are disposed exactly in the same manner in all the individuals,—there are two in the middle in front, and four others placed in pairs to the right and left of these. These six hooks are not all alike, as has hitherto been supposed; they vary both in length and form. Those placed in the middle are not recurved at the apex like the others; they are straight, very tapering, a little longer than the others, and thinner throughout their length. The four lateral hooks are all alike; they consist of two parts—a rather long, straight stem, and a terminal portion, recurved so as to form a hook with the concavity behind. The two hooks in the middle are in contact at their base, but separate towards the apex, like a fan.

The following is the action of these organs, it being understood that the embryos are in the midst of the *débris* of the Proglottis. The six hooks are first of all united in a bundle, and plunged into the tissue before them; the two central straight styles remain sta-